

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 MMO-01 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCA-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /080 W
----- 087221

R 021330Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 475

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LILONGWE 1365

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EAID, MI

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. AMBASSADOR USED OCCASION OF COURTESY CALL ON RECENTLY APPOINTED MINISTER TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, ROBSON CHIRWA, TO RAISE MATTER OF AIRPORT SECURITY AS REQUESTED REFTEL. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED CONTINUING US CONCERN WITH AIRPORT SECURITY TO COMBAT TERRORISM AND OFFERED GOM FAA SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM PER PARA 4 REFTEL PARTICULARLY AS IT MIGHT PERTAIN TO SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEWLY PLANNED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN LILONGWE TARGETED FOR COMPLETION IN 1979. MINISTER RESPONDED HE WOULD STUDY MATTER AND THAT IT MIGHT MAKE SENSE TO SEND SOME MALAWIANS TO UGS FOR TRAINING TO BE FOLLOWED UP BY VISIT BY SOME FAA SPECIALISTS.

2. EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY AT BLANTYRE'S CHILEKA AIRPORT (ONLY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT PRESENT) IS THAT PRESENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ARE GOOD. TIGHT SECURITY PERVADES ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE PRESIDENT BANDA'S RULE AND AIRPORT IS NO EXCEPTION. ALL DEPARTING PASSENGERS HAVE HAD BAGGAGE X-RAYED AND ARE SUBJECT
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TO FRISKING BY SECURITY OFFICERS PRIOR TO BOARDING AIRCRAFT. ALL

INCOMING PASSENGERS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATS, HAVE BAGGAGE SEARCHED BY SECURITY AGENTS. EXCEPTIONS TO THESE SEARCHES ARE ENTRIES AND EXITS THROUGH VIP LOUNGE WHICH ARE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED. MINISTER SAID UK HAD TRAINED SOME MALAWIAN AIRPORT SECURITY PERSONNEL IN PAST.

3. GIVEN CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NOT YET BEGUN) FOR NEW CAPITAL OF LILONGWE, EMBASSY BELIEVES SPECIALIZED TRAINING MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE AND WOULD HOPE REQUEST WOULD BE SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDERED IF RECEIVED.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

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